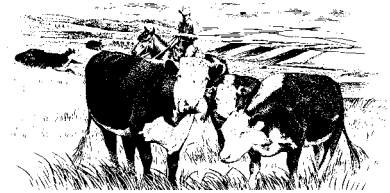


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NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES

3:00 P.M. EDT

Aug. 15	Cattle on Feed	Sept. 19	Cattle on Feed
20	Cold Storage	19	Cold Storage
22	Livestock Slaughter	26	Livestock Slaughter
		26	Hogs & Pigs

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in California feedlots totaled 390 thousand head on July 1, 1997, down 1 percent from last month, but up 13 percent from a year earlier. June placements, at 50.0 thousand head, were down 29 percent from a year earlier. Marketings totaled 50.0 thousand head, up 11 percent from a year ago. Other disappearance was at 5.00 thousand head.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 14 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 8.96 million head on July 1, 1997. The inventory was 14 percent above July 1, 1996. The inventory included 5.41 million steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounts for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.50 million head, up 26 percent from 1996.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.44 million, 11 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.38 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 308 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 338 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 460 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 338 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.04 million,

2 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter continues to be affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. Other disappearance totaled 60.0 thousand during June, 14 percent below the previous year.

CATTLE ON FEED IN HISTORIC 7-STATES UP 17 PERCENT

Cattle on feed July 1, 1997 in the historic 7-states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 7.68 million, up 17 percent from the previous year, but 1 percent below July 1, 1995. The inventory included 4.62 million steers and steer calves, up 10 percent from the previous year. This group accounts for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.03 million head, up 28 percent from 1996.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.22 million, 15 percent above 1996, but 10 percent below 1995. Marketings during June totaled 1.73 million, 2 percent above 1996, but 1 percent below 1995. The year-to-year relationship between the 7-states fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter continues to be affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. Other disappearance during June was 44.0 thousand head, 6 percent below 1996 and 12 percent below 1995.

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN 7 SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed June 1 1/			Placed During June		Marketed During June	
	1996	1997	1997/1996	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Thousand Head -----						
Arizona	183	206	113	31	27	40	41
California	325	395	122	70	50	45	50
Colorado	890	1,010	113	80	125	215	210
Iowa	295	300	102	22	37	66	56
Kansas	1,850	2,110	114	310	335	460	475
Nebraska	1,530	1,760	115	190	220	430	430
Texas	2,180	2,450	112	365	430	440	470
Total 7 States	7,253	8,231	113	1,068	1,224	1,696	1,732
State	Other Disappearance During June 2/		Number on Feed July 1			1997	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996		
	----- Thousand Head -----					Percent	
Arizona	1	3	173	189	109		
California	5	5	345	390	113		
Colorado	5	5	750	920	123		
Iowa	1	1	250	280	112		
Kansas	10	10	1,690	1,960	116		
Nebraska	10	10	1,280	1,540	120		
Texas	15	10	2,090	2,400	115		
Total 7 States	47	44	6,578	7,679	117		

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding

CATTLE ON FEED: CALIFORNIA AND U.S., 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS

Estimate	California			United States		
	1996	1997	1997/1996	1996	1997	1997/1996
	-- 1,000 Head --		Percent	-- 1,000 Head --		Percent
On Feed July 1	345	390	113	7,840	8,958	114
Placed (June)	70	50	71	1,305	1,444	111
Marketed (June)	45	50	111	1,996	2,041	102
Other Disappearance (June) ^{1/}	5	5	100	70	60	86
Kinds On Feed July 1						
Steers and Steer Calves	310	350	113	5,008	5,408	108
Heifers and Heifer Calves	34	38	112	2,785	3,500	126
Cows and Bulls	1	2	200	47	50	106

^{1/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

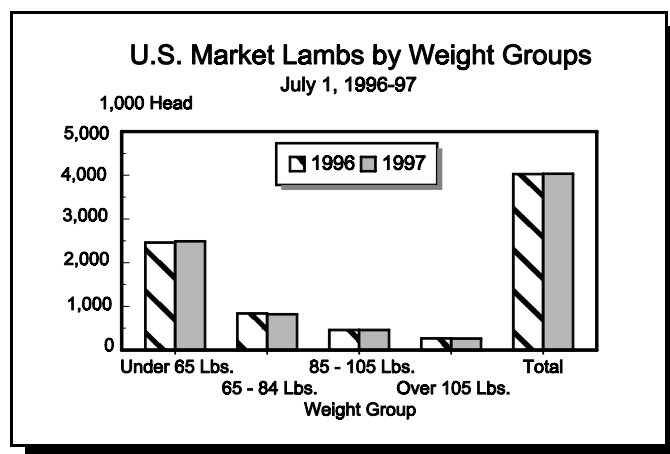
JULY 1, 1997

**ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY TOTALS 9.90 MILLION HEAD
1997 LAMB CROP TO REACH 4.95 MILLION HEAD**

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on July 1, 1997 totaled 9.90 million head, 4 percent below July 1, 1996. Total breeding sheep and lambs reached 5.78 million head, 6 percent below July 1996. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 4.13 million head, were slightly below July 1996.

Of the July 1, 1997 breeding herd, 4.80 million head were ewes one-year-old and older, 230 thousand head were rams one-year-old and older, and 750 thousand head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

The 1997 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.95 million head, down 6 percent from the 1996 lamb crop of 5.30 million head. Lambs born during January through June 1997 reached 4.36 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 590 thousand head are expected to be born during the period July through December 1997.



FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. ^{1/}

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		June 1996	May 1997	June 15, 1997	June 1996	May 1997	June 15, 1997
		----- Dollars -----					
All Hay, Baled <u>2/</u>	Ton	103.00	125.00	123.00	92.30	118.00	108.00
Alfalfa, Baled <u>2/</u>	Ton	104.00	129.00	125.00	96.90	127.00	115.00
Hogs <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	56.40	58.20	57.20
Cows <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	29.50	36.50	34.00	30.60	38.20	36.00
Steers and Heifers <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	51.00	64.00	62.50	59.60	68.30	64.90
Calves <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	51.00	71.00	69.00	55.10	84.30	85.00
Lambs <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	98.00	94.00	91.00	100.70	90.90	---
Milk Cows <u>3/</u>	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Wholesale <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	13.55	12.00	11.90	14.80	13.00	12.60

^{1/} The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

^{2/} Previous month revised to monthly average.

^{3/} Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California production of red meat during June 1997 totaled 83.7 million pounds (dressed weight), 1 percent below last month and fractionally below June 1996. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In June, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,235 pounds; calves, 375 pounds; hogs, 211 pounds.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.49 billion pounds during June. This production was up 2 percent from the previous year.

June 1997 contained 21 weekdays and four Saturdays. June 1996 contained 20 weekdays and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight, at 1,160 pounds, was equal to the previous year.

Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 119.1 thousand head, down 12 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was up 14 pounds to 361.

Pork production, at 1.31 billion pounds, was up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.00 million head, 7 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight, at 256 pounds, was up 2 pounds from the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 21.0 million pounds, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Sheep slaughter totaled 303.3 thousand head, 7 percent above the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds to 138.

January-June red meat production was 21.1 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated production was as follows: beef, down 3 percent; veal, down 7 percent; pork, down 2 percent; lamb and mutton, down 5 percent.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, JUNE 1996-97 a/

Species & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
CATTLE						
Calif.	84.2	83.1	103,123	102,678	1,224	1,235
U.S. Total	3,146.7	3,062.6	3,649,806	3,552,202	1,160	1,160
CALVES						
Calif.	23.8	14.8	8,612	5,549	362	375
U.S. Total	135.5	119.1	46,984	43,009	347	361
SHEEP & LAMBS						
Calif.	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	282.1	303.3	36,252	41,841	129	138
HOGS						
Calif.	151.1	154.0	32,377	32,544	214	211
U.S. Total	6,532.1	7,001.2	1,656,644	1,791,016	254	256
RED MEAT	June 1996	May 1997 b/	June 1997	June 97 June 96	June 97 May 97	
	--- Million Pounds ---		-- Percent --			
Calif.	84.0	84.3	83.7	100	99	
U.S. Total	3,438.5	3,570.1	3,492.5	102	98	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.

b/ Revised total for May 1997

JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1997 totaled 108.8 million head. This was 2 percent below the 111.5 million on July 1, 1996 and 4 percent below the 113.0 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved totaled 44.0 million. This was 2 percent below the 45.0 million on July 1, 1996 and 4 percent below the 45.6 million two years ago.

- Beef cows, at 34.7 million, were down 3 percent from July 1, 1996 and 4 percent below two years ago.
- Milk cows, at 9.30 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1996 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1997 and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.1 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.3 million, down 4 percent and down 7 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, down 3 percent and down 8 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.2 million, up 1 percent and up 3 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.6 million, down 3 percent and down 5 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.3 million, down 4 percent from both years.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.8 million, down 3 percent and down 4 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 10.9 million, up 11 percent, but down 3 percent.

CALF CROP DOWN 2 PERCENT

The 1997 calf crop is expected to be 38.8 million, down 2 percent from 1996 and down 4 percent from 1995. Calves born during the first-half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, down 2 percent from 1996 and down 3 percent from 1995.

CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS AND CALF CROP, U.S., JULY 1, 1995-97

Class	1995	1996	1997	1997 1996
	--- 1,000 Head ---			Percent
Cattle & Calves	113,000	111,500	108,800	98
Cows & Heifers				
That Have Calved	45,600	45,000	44,000	98
Beef Cows	36,100	35,600	34,700	97
Milk Cows	9,500	9,400	9,300	99
Heifers 500 Lbs. & Over	17,600	17,300	17,100	99
For Beef Cow				
Replacement	5,700	5,500	5,300	96
For Milk Cow				
Replacement	3,900	3,700	3,600	97
Other Heifers	8,000	8,100	8,200	101
Steers 500 Lbs. & Over	15,400	15,100	14,600	97
Bulls 500 Lbs. & Over	2,400	2,400	2,300	96
Calves Under 500 Lbs.	32,000	31,700	30,800	97
Calf Crop	40,211	39,586	38,800	98

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 2.31 billion pounds of milk in June, 4 percent below last month, but 8 percent above last year.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,795 pounds, 90 pounds less than last month, but 100 pounds more than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION

State	Milk Cows			Milk Per Cow			Milk Production and Comparisons						Grain and Other Concentrates					
													Daily feed			Value		
	June 1996	May 1997	June 1997	June 1996	May 1997	June 1997	June 1996	May 1997	June 1997	Jun 97 Jun 96	Jun 97 May 97		July 1, 1996	Apr. 1, 1997	July 1, 1997	July 1, 1996	Apr. 1, 1997	July 1, 1997
	--- 1,000 Head ---			--- Pounds ---			--- Million pounds ---			-- Percent --			--- Lbs./Cow ---			--- Dollars/Cwt. ---		
CA	1,263	1,284	1,288	1,695	1,885	1,795	2,141	2,420	2,312	108	96		21.0	21.0	21.5	9.30	8.40	8.40
WI	1,455	1,393	1,392	1,305	1,410	1,390	1,899	1,964	1,935	102	99		18.8	18.5	16.3	8.85	7.70	7.80
U.S.	7,818	7,733	7,736	1,398	1,532	1,468	10,926	11,847	11,357	104	96		18.3	19.5	19.0	9.87	8.79	8.73